

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

FOLLOWING SECSTATE 277307 SENT ACTION OTTAWA NOV. 220 REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: ENERGY: FPC MEETING ON CANADIAN CURTAILMENT
OF NATURAL GAS EXPORTS

REF: OTTAWA 4310

1. DEPARTMENT DISCUSSED WITH FRANK ALLEN, CHIEF, BUREAU OF
NATURAL GAS, FPC, RATIONALE FOR FPC MEETING ON CANADIAN
EXPORT CURTAILMENTS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 24.

2. ALLEN SAID FPC STAFF WAS AWARE OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES THERE WOULD BE NO EXPORT CURTAILMENTS THIS
WINTER. HE SAID FPC COULD TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THESE STATE-
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MENTS BUT STAFF BELIEVED IT DESIRABLE IN LIGHT OF CONG-

GRESSIONAL INTEREST TO HOLD INFORMAL CONFERENCE WITH GAS DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES AND FORMULATE INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT ON THIS MATTER.

3. ALLEN STRESSED THAT FPC IS HOLDING AN "INFORMAL CONFERENCE", NOT A HEARING. HE FULLY EXPECTS THE PIPELINE COMPANIES INVITED TO APPEAR TO STATE FOR THE RECORD THAT THEY HAD BEEN ASSURED BY THEIR CANADIAN SUPPLIERS THAT THEY WOULD FACE NO CURTAILMENTS THIS HEATING SEASON (OTHER THAN THOSE ANTICIPATED IN B.C.).

4. CANADIAN EMBASSY MINISTER-COUNSELOR FOR ENERGY NORMAN CHAPPELL IS NOT CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR THE CONFERENCE AND SAID A NEW STATEMENT FROM EM&R MINISTER GILLESPIE HAD BEEN REQUESTED AND RECEIVED FROM OTTAWA AND WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE FPC. GILLESPIE REITERATES IN HIS STATEMENT THAT NO EXPORT CURTAILMENTS--BARRING UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES-- ARE EXPECTED THIS HEATING SEASON EXCEPT IN THE BC FIELDS WHERE CURTAILMENTS COULD BE LESS THAN LAST WINTER BECAUSE OF EFFORTS MADE TO INCREASE SUPPLIES.

5. COMMENT--: FYI DEPARTMENT STRESSED TO ALLEN AND HE AGREED THAT ADVANCE CONSULTATION ON FPC ACTIONS THAT MAY AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CANADA WOULD BE DESIRABLE IN THE FUTURE. WE MADE POINT THAT FPC CONFERENCE COULD BE HELPFUL IN OBTAINING DATA FROM THE MAJOR PIPELINE COMPANIES /IMPORTERS AND INTERESTED PARTIES IN CANADIAN DEPENDENT REGIONS ON THE DEGREE OF DEPENDENCY IN THE VARIOUS SYSTEMS, AND THE POTENTIAL SUPPLY ALTERNATIVES TO HELP PREPARE FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSULTATIONS WITH GOC ON FUTURE EXPORT CURTAILMENTS. KISSINGER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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